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THE
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1939,
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WITH THAT OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOR
The Rural District of Tamworth.



WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

TAMWORTH

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Tamworth
Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Ninth Annual Report of the Rural District of Tamworth, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 21,944.

Registrar-General's estimate of

(a) resident population, mid-1939; 14,390.

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates. 14,350.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books. 4,151.

Rateable value £56,538

Sum represented by a penny rate £207.

The chief industry is coal-mining. Other industries include the manufacture of terra-cotta, sanitary appliances and bricks. Dairy farming is also carried on, supplies being sent to surrounding districts and in particular to Birmingham.

Live Births

	Total				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Legitimate			133	132	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939 ; 18·9
Illegitimate	138	134	5	2	

Stillbirths

Legitimate			11	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 62
Illegitimate	13	4	2	1	

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	153	88	65

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population 10·6.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	3·67
Total	1	3·67

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 33.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 33.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 13.

„ „ Measles (all ages) 1.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

The following table gives the causes of all deaths.

	All Causes.	M.	F.	Total
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2	Measles	1	—	1
3	Scarlet-fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6	Influenza	1	1	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	5
10	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	2	—	2
11	Syphilis	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	1	—	1
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	7	6	13
14	Diabetes	1	5	6
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	9	4	13
16	Heart Disease	20	22	42
17	Aneurysm	1	—	1
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	—	3
19	Bronchitis	3	1	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	5	4	9
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
23	Diarrhoea etc. (two years and over)	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	—	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	—	1	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	1
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	1	7
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc	5	5	10
32	Senility	6	3	9
33	Suicide	—	—	—
34	Other Violence	2	2	4
35	Other Defined Diseases	8	6	14
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1	2
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).	—	—	—
	Smallpox	—	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
	Totals	88	65	153

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

Medical Officer of Health.

DR. W. LOWSON, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, Inspector under the Milk and Dairies Order, Canal Boats, Factories Act and Petroleum Officer.	}	C. W. BERESFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Special Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat Inspection.
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2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

By arrangement between the Warwickshire County Council and the University of Birmingham, the medical practitioners in the district are enabled to utilise the laboratory at the University for all their needs.

3. *Ambulance Facilities.*

The Council has no direct ambulance facilities but the ambulances at the various works and collieries are adequate for the needs of the district. The ambulance facilities of the Birmingham Hospitals Scheme also operate in the district.

4. *Nursing in the Home.*

District nurses are employed by voluntary agencies with the help of the County Council, in all the villages of the Authority.

5. *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*

School clinics and baby clinics are held under the supervision of the Medical Officer of the County through his assistants.

6. *Hospitals.*

There are no hospitals situated in the District.

The Tamworth General Hospital is largely used by the people of the district for acute surgical illnesses

The Poor Law Infirmary and Institution situated in Tamworth is used to the extent of one hundred beds for Warwickshire patients suffering from chronic illnesses.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases is governed by a Joint Hospital Board; the Borough and Rural District Councils are the constituent Authorities.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water Supplies.*

A considerable portion of the district is supplied by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks from a well situated at Hopwas, and the following are the pumping records and rainfall for the past three years.

		Well.		
	Gallons pumped.	Highest.	Lowest.	Rainfall.
1939	200,214,000	9' 5"	2' 8"	26·64"
1938	188,461,000	9' 10"	3' 4"	22·89"
1937	199,487,000	13' 2"	4' 3"	25·60"

Monthly analyses submitted to the County Analyst show the quality of the water to be good and suitable for a public supply, as will be seen from the following :—

The following is an analysis taken on 16th May, 1939.

Total Solid matter dried at 212°F	40·0
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	0·002
Nitric Nitrogen	0·40
Chlorine	3 1
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0·005
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	Nil
PH Value	7·5
Hardness before boiling	14·84°
„ after „	6·70°
Temporary Hardness	8 14°

Expressed in parts per 100,000.

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

<i>Count.</i> On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°c.	1
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20°-22°c.	4

Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli)
after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C. None.

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

The clause in the Ministry Report No. 71 suggests "that when a Public Water Supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml. the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory."

The parish of Kingsbury has a piped supply from three sources, viz:—

Dumble Springs, for Kingsbury Village and Bodymoor Heath.

Baxterley, for Hurley and Whateley.

Dosthill by the Tamworth Joint Waterworks.

The parishes of Newton Regis, Austrey, Middleton and Seekington are now supplied by new mains laid down by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The supplies of Water have been regularly analysed and found satisfactory.

The question of augmenting the supply has been considered by the Council and a scheme prepared by consulting engineers, but so far it is still under consideration.

2. *Sewage Disposal.*

The greater part of the district is served by the Sewage Disposal Joint Committee.

Pumping Station. The electrically driven pumping installation at these Works continues to function according to the demand on them, and is capable of dealing with six times dry weather flow with ease.

Amington. The sewage works at Amington has maintained a fair effluent and the two pumping stations, Moor Lane and Pretty Pigs have been kept in good order. The use of alumina ferrie has shown a great improvement in the final effluent.

Kingsbury. A fair effluent has been maintained during the year at the sewage works at Cliff, Wood End, Hurley Village and Hurley Common, and the pumping station at Kingsbury has been kept in good order.

Dosthill and Hockley. The new sewage disposal works are serving satisfactorily and a good effluent has been maintained. The use of alumina ferrie has shown a great improvement in the final effluent.

Rivers. The rivers in the area are controlled by the Trent Catchment Board and their work in cleaning the Tame and improving the banks has been continued.

House Refuse. A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour in the parishes of Wilnecote, Glascote, Amington and Newton Regis, for which 4 men are regularly employed, removal being carried out by a Shelvoke & Drewry Freighter. Collection of refuse in the parishes of Kingsbury, (including Dosthill, Hurley and Wood End), Middleton, Seckington, Austrey and Shuttington, received consideration by the Council at two meetings but the outbreak of War caused the proposals to be postponed for the time being. A collection in these parishes will entail the purchase of an additional vehicle.

At the present time tips are used for disposal of the refuse collected by the Council in the parishes of Amington, Glascote and Wilnecote; and by arrangement with the Lichfield Rural District Council, in Fazeley. Towards the end of the year salvaging of various materials was commenced and it is anticipated that the amount to be salvaged will be considerable. The method adopted is by the use of sacks attached to the rear of the freighter and after sorting and baling at the Depot these are disposed of as far as possible, locally.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK OF DISTRICT, 1939.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances abated after Notice
Water Supply ...	280	88	81
Drains ...	552	142	121
Stables and Piggeries ...	57	25	25
Fried Fish Shops... ..	46	4	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	41	2	2
Factories ...	78	17	17
Petroleum and Carbide ...	9	—	—
Bakehouses ...	65	9	7
Public Conveniences ...	148	7	5
Smoke Observations ...	20	7	7
Refuse Collection ...	421	59	59
Rats and Mice ...	20	10	8
Schools ...	18	1	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	595	120	115
Canal Boats ...	47	25	25
<i>Under Public Health Acts</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	142	59	52
Visits paid to the above Houses	332	—	—
<i>Housing Acts:</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	160	43	37
Visits paid to the above Houses	844	—	—
<i>Overcrowding</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	14	4	4
Visits paid to the above Houses	26	—	—
<i>Verminous Premises</i>			
Number of Houses Inspected	27	21	21
Infectious Diseases ...	22	—	—
Visits paid to the above Houses	28	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	338	42	42
Shops and Stalls ...	330	—	—
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	198	83	61
Cow Sheds ...	426	87	63
Dairies and Milkshops ...	424	25	25
TOTALS ...	5708	880	782
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Samples of Water taken for Analysis		19	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use		12	
„ „ regarded as of good quality		7	

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, Etc.

Inspections have been made at various times to the few Tents, Vans and Similar Structures in the district, which are now reduced to three only for the whole district. Every endeavour is made to dissuade applicants who propose to acquire or live in such dwellings from so doing.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Observations for smoke abatement have been made throughout the year and in addition to reporting any infringement of the Smoke Nuisances Section of the Public Health Act to the Managers of Works, the Sanitary Inspector interviews the stokers and this generally has the desired effect.

SCHOOLS.

It was not found necessary to close any school during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

The Sanitary accommodation and water supplies are satisfactory and are maintained properly. As will be seen from the Report on page 11, the number of cases of infectious disease are kept down to a minimum and in order to assist as far as possible children are promptly excluded from school where infectious disease has arisen at their homes.

Disinfectants are supplied to the schools when required.

At one school new white glazed wash bowls were provided at the request of the Health Department.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The efforts to bring about improvement to houses which have found to be unfit for habitation have been continued and various inspections made by a Sub-Committee to those houses which were considered to be incapable, at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit. The Council had already taken steps to achieve this by the making of Demolition Orders and the service of Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 about the middle of the year, but the outbreak of War caused such activities to cease. It is to be regretted that such efforts to bring about improved housing conditions could not be concluded. The usual Report is omitted as suggested in the Ministry's Circular as to the contents of this Annual Report, but the summary shown on page 8 shows the number of Notices served under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Act requiring repairs to houses

Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses and undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act for the reconditioning of ten other houses. One wooden bungalow was inspected by the Committee and it was decided to accept an undertaking from the owner not to re-let it after a period of twelve months without the Council's consent.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. *Milk and Dairies Order.*

A large quantity of milk produced for despatch from the farms in the district to Birmingham and Tamworth requires the inspection of farms and dairies, the total number of which is shown below:—

Wholesale	107
Retail	86

52 farmers are licensed for the production of "Accredited" Milk.

1 farm is licensed for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

Supplementary licences to distributors whose premises are outside the district:—

Tuberculin Tested	2
Accredited	2
Pasteurised	2

Various infringements met with included lack of cleanliness, inadequate drainage, water supplies inadequate or not bacteriologically safe, floors of cowsheds and milkrooms not formed of impervious material, and other items.

Generally speaking the requirements of the Sanitary Inspector were complied with by verbal request or informal notice, but statutory notices were served where such action failed to achieve the desired result.

It is still the opinion of the Health Department that regular sampling of milk from farms, particularly those holding an "Accredited" licence produces a higher standard of cleanliness, particularly where the results of such sampling are regularly forwarded to the farmers.

(b) *Meat and other Foods.*

Regular inspection of meat was carried out at the 13 slaughter-houses licensed and at shops and vans. Premises where sausages and other preserved food are prepared were also regularly inspected.

At the commencement of the War this work was curtailed by the slaughtering of animals at the Government Slaughterhouse in the Borough of Tamworth, but by arrangement with the Sanitary Inspector for this Authority inspections are carried out jointly, and this has found to work very satisfactorily.

The whole of the slaughterhouses in the district are now licensed under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of licensed slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act is 33.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No disease was prevalent during the year in epidemic form but the notification of measles and whooping cough showed a considerable number of cases at the commencement of such notification.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year in the matter of immunisation against diphtheria.

The number of visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have been notified is 22.

In the majority of cases the patients were removed to hospital, disinfection of the rooms carried out forthwith and disinfectant supplied to the tenants.

The following table shows the number of notifiable diseases notified during the year.

	Total Cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	21	—
Diphtheria	1	—
Enteric Fever	1	—
Pneumonia	23	9
Puerperal Fever	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1
Erysipelas	6	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Tuberculosis		
(1) Pulmonary	11	3
(2) Non-pulmonary	3	—

Blindness. No action was necessary.

Below is a table showing new cases and mortality for Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	6	2	1	1	2	—	—

The County Tuberculosis Officer and Health Visitor visit patients in their homes when necessary. Patients may be admitted to Sanatoria at Groundslow, Prestwood, Bramcote, Hertford Hill and certain other places.

The Tamworth Rural District Council is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Board and any case occurring in the district may be removed to their Hospital at Moxley.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Canal Boats (S. 249).

Periodical visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats.

The total number of boats on the Register at the 31st December, 1939, was 123

During the year, the cabins of 47 boats have been examined which were registered for occupation by 135 persons, but were occupied by only 91 persons. This number is made up as follows :—

Male adults	35
Female adults	29
Children of school age	14
Children under school age	13
	<hr/>
	91
	<hr/>

The children's ages were as follows :—

One	aged	under 1 year.
Two	aged	1 year.
Three	„	2 years.
Three	„	3 „
Four	„	4 „
Two	„	5 „
Three	„	6 „
One	„	7 „
Two	„	8 years.
Three	„	9 „
One	„	10 „
Two	„	11 „

25 Contraventions were met with on 16 boats, the details being as follows :—

3	Absence of Certificate.
1	Certificate not identifying Owner with Boat.
1	Marking.
5	Cleanliness.
5	Painting.
1	Ventilation.
3	Dilapidation.
4	Removal of Bilge Water.
2	Boats detained for Cleansing.

No boat was found to be carrying offensive cargo.

No infectious disease was met with and therefore no boats detained for disinfection.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	60	5	—
Factories without mechanical power	16	3	—
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	2	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories Total	78	8	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	7	7	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	unsuitable or defective	5	5	—
	insufficient	3	3	—
	not separate for sexes	1	1	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	16	16	—	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no statutory offensive trades except those of Fish Frying, of which there are 15 licensed. These have been periodically inspected and the notice of the occupiers drawn to any lack of cleanliness, etc., and in all cases these received attention after informal notice.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM LOWSON, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CHARLES W. BERESFORD,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Birth rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality
and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1939.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126C. Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. : County.
Rates per 1,000 Population :—				
Live Births	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still „	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
DEATHS :—				
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Small-pox	0.00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	Not available		
Others	2.16			
Total	2.93			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) —				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	Not available		
Others	2.08			
Total	2.82			
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
„ Pyrexia				14.22

